

FELLOWSHIP OF EVANGELISTS AND MINISTERS



Intermediate Course

Introduction

The Intermediate Course offered by the Fellowship of Evangelists and Ministers aims to cover every major theme of Scripture. You will be required to submit a 10,000 word thesis on completion of this course. Please contact your tutor regarding your subject for the thesis.

As you complete each section please mail or email it to your tutor for inspection and marking, which will be returned to you as soon as possible. You will find your tutor's details on the front of this study. Do not hesitate to contact him or her if you need help or have any questions relating to the course.

Relax and work on this course in your own time and at your own pace. There is no need for you to rush through it. It is the prayer of the Fellowship of Evangelists and Ministers that this course will bless, encourage and edify you as you seek to know more of God's wonderful Word.

Section 1

Introduction to the Old Testament

1. (a) Consider the subject of the Inspiration and Authority of Holy Scripture; what does this imply? (b) What observations can you make regarding the influence of the Bible on the world?
2. (a) What is the root meaning for the word "Canon" and what is the significance when applied to the Books of the Bible? (b) What are the divisions of the books of the Old Testament?

3. Was Moses actually the author of the Pentateuch? If you accept the Mosaic authorship of the first five books of the Old Testament, state why.

Choose any seven of the following questions:

4. Write a brief introduction for three of the first five Books of the Bible.

5. Describe Moses as an Elder Statesman, Prophet of God and Lawgiver.

6. Discuss either, "The Ten Plagues" or "The Crossing of the Red Sea".

7. Describe the nature of the Religion of the Patriarchs, with particular reference to Abraham.

8. Describe the character of the Leaders we know as "The Judges", and provide a survey of two of these, together with any criticisms that you feel reasonable to make in light of your study.

9. Give a brief synopsis of the events, which led up to the foundation of Israel's first Monarchy and indicate the part played by the Prophet Samuel.

10. Briefly describe the achievements and describe the character of either Saul or David

11. Why was the Temple so important to Religion of the Jews?

12. Show clearly how the teaching of the Prophets Amos and Hosea is related to the spiritual conditions in Israel during their time in ministry.

13. State your reasons for the Decline and Fall of the Northern Kingdom (Israel) and why the Southern Kingdom (Judah) outlived its neighbour by so many years.

14. Give an account of the Reformation begun by either King Hezekiah or King Josiah?

15. (a) Why is the Prophet Jeremiah described as the most spiritual of the Old Testament prophets? (b) Would you agree with this statement yourself? (b) How would you compare him with the Prophet Isaiah?

16. (a) Describe the conditions under which the exiles lived after they were deported to Babylon. (b) Do you see this in any way as a period of preparation for the coming of their Messiah?

17. Write an outline of the Life of Ezekiel, as far as you are able, and indicate the lines along which his ministry and message developed.

18. Offer a brief essay on the subject, "The Servant" found in Isaiah chapters 40 to 66

19. Describe the parts played by Ezra and Nehemiah in the return of the Exiles from Babylonian Captivity.

20. Write a sermon outline on the Book of Jonah.

Section 2

Introduction to the New Testament

1. Write an outline of the Life of the Lord Jesus Christ from His Birth to His Ascension.

2. Seven foundational topics are described in the teaching of the Lord Jesus Christ. (a) Can you list them? (b) What does He say about the Holy Spirit and His Second Advent.

3. (a) Write an introduction to the Book of Acts. (b) What you know about the author of the book? (c) Write down the lessons contained in the Book of Acts on the following: i) Prayer, ii) Faith during persecution, iii) The Unity of Believers.

4. (a) Outline the Life and Missionary Journeys of the Apostle Paul. (b) Draw a map of any of these journeys with the names and locations of the places Paul visited.

You may choose any six of the following questions:

5. Give brief analyse of the Gospel of Matthew.

6. It is said that the main themes of Luke's Gospel "find mention in the first two chapters". Can you list these?

7. (a) What do we learn from the fourth Gospel about the Apostle John. (b) What proofs are there that he was indeed the author of that Gospel?

8. What do you consider to be the main aim of Paul's Epistles?

9. (a) What name are the Three letters from the last group of Paul's writing, 1 and 2 Timothy and the book of Titus, commonly given? (b) Give a summary of the lives of either Timothy and Titus.

10. (a) List all the so-called "Catholic Letters". (b) What do you know about: (i) James and (ii) Jude?

11. (a) Give your reasons for or against the Paul's authorship of the Letter to the Hebrews. (b) What do you consider to be the author's main points?

12. (a) What were the dangers of which Peter warned his readers against? (b) Compare them with those that threaten both the Church and the individual Christian today.
13. Paul's Letter to the Church in Rome has been described as a theological masterpiece. (a) Would you agree with this description of the Letter? State the reason for your answer. (b) Outline three important doctrines stated by Paul in the Letter.
14. Outline the background reasons for why Paul wrote Letters to the (a) Galatians and (b) Colossians.
15. What does Paul teach about the future Return of the Lord Jesus Christ in both 1 and 2 Thessalonians?
16. Outline Paul's teaching in 1 Corinthians on the following: (a) The Lord's Table; (b) The Gifts of the Holy Spirit; (c) The Resurrection of Christ.
17. Write brief notes on (a) Onesimus and (b) Philemon.
18. Write a brief introduction to the Book of Revelation in about 400 words.

Section 3

The Book of Psalms

1. The Book of Psalms is actually divided into five books and each of these includes an introduction and a doxology. List and comment on these five divisions.
2.
 - a) What do you consider to be the most important theme of the Book of Psalms?
 - b) Which Psalms do you believe to be Messianic? (Give your reasons).
3. (a) List the Psalms that were written by David. (b) List both the Psalms and the experience he was passing through when they were written.
4. (a) Describe the conditions that led to the writing of Psalm 32. (b) What sections can it be divided into? (c) What lessons has it for the Christian today?
5. Comment on the theme contained in Psalm 115 and state what "idols" a present day believer would mock if he or she would write a similar psalm.
6. The following words are used over twenty times in Psalm 119: Commandment, Judgement, Law, Precepts, Statutes, Testimonies and Word. State the meaning of these words in the context of the Psalm.

Section 4

The Gospel of Luke

1. Write what you know about:
 - a) The author of the Gospel.
 - b) The date and sources of information contained in the Gospel.
 - c) The style and reason for the Gospel.
2. Was Doctor Luke accurate in the details he described? Give the reasons for your answers.
3. Write a brief introduction to the Gospel.
4. Why do you think this Gospel has been called "The Gospel for the Sinner"?

Choose any three of the following questions:

5. Discuss 8 parables and 3 miracles that are only recorded in the Gospel of Luke.
6. Luke alone preserves the first five Christian hymns. Name them and provide references.
7. Do you consider that there is any difference between Luke's account of Christ's Discourse on His Second Coming with those recorded by Matthew and Mark? If so, list and comment on them.
8. Write brief sermon notes on the following:
 - a) The Prodigal Son
 - b) The Sending out of the Seventy
 - c) The Conversion of Zacchaeus
 - d) The Rich man and Lazarus
9. Compare Luke's account of The Resurrection with that of Matthew. Would you consider Luke's account more detailed? Give your reasons for your answers.

Section 5

The Genesis Account of Creation

1. Genesis chapters 1 and 2 contain the Biblical Account of the Creation of the World and the Universe. Read through these chapters and answer this three-part question.

- a) Should we take Genesis literally?
 - b) How long do you believe the days of Genesis 1 were?
 - c) What are the best 'proof' of Creation?
2. There are three main theories regarding the Creation of the Universe:
- a) Special / Divine Creation
 - b) Theistic Evolution
 - c) Evolution
- Give a brief summary of each of these theories and suggest which best agrees with the Biblical Record.
3. Did early Church Leaders and Reformers believe the literal Creation Account as described in Genesis? Explain.
4. How does Biblical Christianity explain the reason for wars, disease, famine, and other evils? (Take special note of Genesis 3).

Section 6

Systematic Theology

1. In your opinion, should Christian creeds be given similar authority with the Words of Scripture in determining points of Christian doctrine? State your reasons.
2. (a) Write a list of the Attributes of God. (b) What is meant by the terms "Omnipresence" and "Omnipotence" in describing God?
3. Outline the Biblical teaching on the Deity of the Lord Jesus Christ. Give Scriptural proof of the virgin birth of our Lord.
4. Write brief notes on the following:
 - (a) The Eternal state of the Redeemed.
 - (b) The Eternal state of the Lost.
5. Write brief notes on the following:
 - (a) Saving Faith.
 - (b) Justification by Faith.
 - (c) Grace
 - (d) Regeneration.
 - (e) Propitiation.
 - (f) Reconciliation.
6. What are the fundamental principles for the Scriptural Doctrine of Sanctification?

7. (a) Would the Church be any poorer if Believers' Baptism and the Lord's Table were discontinued? (b) Give some reasons why some believers neglect these.

8. Some "Liberal Theologians" declare that the Second Coming of Christ took place when the Holy Spirit came on the Day of Pentecost. Would you say that this idea is true or false? Give Biblical reasons for your answer.

You may choose any five of the following questions:

9. Write an outlined analysis of the following:

- (a) The Inspiration of Holy Scriptures.
- (b) The Revelation of Holy Scriptures.
- (c) The Canon of Holy Scripture.

10. Imagine that a "Jehovah's Witness" has called on you and challenges you to prove the Doctrine of the Trinity from the Bible. Clearly state how you would respond, giving Scriptural reasons for your answers.

11. Which Person or Persons of the Sacred Trinity were responsible for the acts of Creation? Discuss this matter thoroughly as possible.

12. (a) Was the Death of the Lord Jesus Christ absolutely necessary for the salvation of man? (b) Do you think that there is any other way to save sinners? Give the reasons for your answers.

13. The Resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ has been called the "Greatest Miracle" found in Scripture. Give Scriptural reasons why you believe this to be true.

14. What Scriptural proofs can you give that the Holy Spirit is a Person and not just a force or an expression of God's power?

15. Is the Holy Spirit working today as much as He was during the days of the Apostles? On what Scriptural observations do you base your reply?

16. Is there any Scriptural authority for stating that some people are Predestined to Damnation? How has this subject been treated by various Christian Theologians?

17. (a) Do you consider that the human soul is immortal? Offer Biblical references to support your belief. (b) What difference does the Sacrifice of the Lord Jesus Christ on the Cross make to believers who have departed this life?

18. What do you personally consider will be the grand climax of World History?

19. In your opinion, is the Second Coming of the Lord Jesus Christ one single event, or does it take place in two distinct phases? Give the Scriptural reasons for your answer.

20. In your opinion will there be just one general judgement of mankind, or does God judge mankind in different ways? Give Scriptural reasons for your answer.

Section 7

The Second Coming of Christ

1. Read through Luke chapter 21. Christ's discourse here is in response to two questions posed by His disciples (see Matthew 24:3).

- a) When would the Jewish Temple be destroyed?
- b) When would Christ return and this present age come to a close?
- c) List, in chronological order, the events in Luke 21 from the Ascension of Christ until His Return.

2. Read Daniel 2. This chapter covers the entire period of Gentile rule from the time of King Nebuchadnezzar until the Return of Christ. (a) What four Gentile Powers are referred to in verses 38-40? (b) What do you understand by the "Divided" Kingdom of verses 41-43? (c) Give approximate starting dates for each of the five kingdoms mentioned: i.e. Gold, Silver, Brass, Iron, Iron and Clay.

3. One of the characteristics of the Last Days is the departure from the true faith (2 Timothy 4:3-4, 1 Timothy 4:1-2, Luke 18:8 etc.). Using Matthew 24:23-31 and any other relevant passages, describe how believers might become deceived and what the remedy for deception is.

4. Read 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18. (a) In your own words describe what these verses teach about the Rapture of the Church. (b) Discuss briefly the following positions in light of your answer:

- (i) A-millennialism.
- (ii) Post-millennialism.
- (iii) Pre-millennialism.

5. Read Ezekiel 37. This chapter is dealing with the future of Israel not the church (see verse 11). (a) What significance do you feel they have on establishing of the Israeli State in 1948? (b) What would these verses have to say to survivors of the Holocaust? (c) Do you believe that such verses can be linked to end of "The Times of the Gentiles"?

You may choose any five of the following questions:

6. Read Luke 17:26-30. What were the characteristics of society in Noah's and Lot's day and how are these reflected in the current generation?

7. Read 2 Timothy 3:1-13. What are the hallmarks of the Last Days said to be in these verses and how do you see these apply to our own society?

8. Read 2 Thessalonians 2:1-12. Describe the two events that the apostle Paul say must occur before Christ returns.

9. Using the text above, explain what you think Paul was referring to when he wrote, "Ye know what withholdeth" and "letteth" in verses 6 to 8.

10. Read Luke 21:24-33. Verse 24 indicates a definite end to the "Times of the Gentiles" that began in Nebuchadnezzar's day. In your view:

(a) Have the "times" now come to an end? Give your reasons.

(b) What is meant by the word "generation" in verse 32 and how does this tie in with your answer to?

11. Read 1 Corinthians 15:50-58. (a) What does this passage teach us concerning believers who are alive at Christ's Return? (b) How does 1 John 3:1-3 agree with this?

12. In what way does Revelation 19:5-20:6 shed light upon the Rapture, the Tribulation, and the Millennium?

13. Read Revelation chapter 2-3. Apart from these letters being actual letters written to churches in the apostle John's day, how could they also be said to describe seven periods of church history?

14. Read Daniel 9:24-27.

(a) Show from this text how it clearly pinpoints the date for the Crucifixion of Jesus.

(b) How do these verses, especially (:26) help us to identify the coming evil "prince" (commonly known as the Antichrist)?

(c) Futurists believe that (:27) describes the final seven years before Christ's return. If this is your position, explain why.

15. Read Revelation 17. Many believe that these verses describe the Church of Rome.

(a) What characteristics of the "great whore" of these verses are seen in the Church of Rome?

(b) Show how the popes titles: Holy Father, Supreme Pontiff and Vicar of Christ can be viewed as "names of blasphemy" (:3).

(c) What influences does the "Mother of Harlots" (:5) have upon the world government in the last days?

16. Read Revelation 13. What does this chapter tell us about the Antichrist' control in the Last Days over:

(a) Religion.

(b) Finance and Industry.

(c) Nature.

17. Read Acts 1:6-8. (a) What events do you feel must occur before Jesus is openly declared King of Israel and what verses indicate that Abraham's decedents will once

again take their place as God's leading nation? (b) If you do not believe that God has any plans for Israel as an earthly nation, explain the disciples question and Christ's answer.

The following sections are for those intending to apply for ministerial accreditation with The Fellowship of Evangelists and Ministers. All questions are compulsory. If you are not applying for ministerial accreditation, then you only required to write your 10,000 word thesis. All quotations referred to in your work must be entered as footnotes at the bottom of each page. Discuss the subject of your thesis with your tutor before commencing.

Section 8

Homiletic Studies

1. What is the true nature of and reason for preaching God's Word?
2. Select one of the preachers from both Testaments and show how God's call enabled them to fulfil His will for their lives.
3. Choose one of the miracles of the Lord Jesus Christ and give an sermon outline of the message it contains.
4. Clearly define the word "Homiletics" and say why it is important to the preaching and teaching of Scripture.
5. The five main classifications of the sermon are, Textual, Expository, Topical, Devotional, and Allegorical. Concisely describe each one separately.
6. What do you consider to be the meaning of the phrase "Taking the Text out of Context", and do you think that a preacher should use a text in this manner? Give reasons for your answer.
7. Give two complete sermon outlines on either John 3:16 or Galatians 2:20. Offer three points for each sermon outline and three sub-headings to each point.
8. Give a sermon illustration for each of the following subjects:
 - a) The Love of God
 - b) The Way to God
 - c) The Call to Repentance
 - d) The Sanctified Life
9. State why you think illustrations are or are not essential to preaching.
10. Write a sermon introduction on Hebrews 2:3.

11. Now write out a full conclusion to Hebrews 2:3.
12. You have been asked to give a Bible Study on Daniel 1. Say how you would approach the chapter and give an outline for it.
13. Write a sermon outline on the Return of Christ.
14. Write out in full a sermon on one of these Bible passages:
 - a) Genesis 1:1
 - b) Isaiah 9:6
 - c) Luke 24:6
 - d) John 5:24
 - e) Romans 12:1
 - f) Hebrews 2:3

Section 9

Pastoralia

1. What is the Scriptural meaning of the word "Pastor"?
2. The Biblical ministry of "Comfort and Reconciliation" may be defined both from Scripture and contemporary need. Give examples of these.
3. Words of comfort are not always meant to be soothing words. What other forms may such words take in the pastor's ministry?
4. The "Mind of Christ" for all situations must be sought in the exercise of the Pastoral Ministry. Show how the pastor should go about seeking this both from the examples found in Scripture.
5. Compare Titus 2:1 with 2 Timothy 4:2-4 to show what attributes are required of the pastor both in his ministry and dealings with other people.
6. Give example of particular friendships that should be encouraged and avoided in the Pastoral Ministry.
7. (a) What practical lessons can be gathered from the picture of the shepherd? (b) What would you say that today's shepherd in the western world, particularly regarding modern technology, could teach us about pastoral work?
8. Is it possible for a man to be a "good pastor" and a "poor preacher" at the same time? In your own opinion, is it necessary to be both if one is to be a successful minister of the Gospel?

Thesis

You are now required to submit a 10,000-word thesis. Your thesis must be typed rather than handwritten. It is advisable to print a second copy of your work just in case it goes astray in the mail. Please discuss the subject of your thesis with your tutor before commencing.

Suggested structure for your thesis:

Title Page.

Title (including subtitle), author, institution, date.

Table of Contents.

List all headings and subheadings including page numbers.

Chapter headings and sub-headings if necessary.

Paragraphs should be double-spaced (as used in this study booklet).

Introduction

You cannot write a good introduction until you know what the body of the paper is about. Consider writing the introductory section after you have completed the rest of the thesis, rather than before. Be sure to include a 'hook' at the beginning of the introduction. This is a statement of something sufficiently interesting to motivate your reader to read the rest of your work.

Conclusion

What is the strongest and most important statement that you can make from your observations? If you met the reader at a meeting six months from now, what do you want them to remember about your thesis? Include the broader implications of your results.

References

Cite all ideas, concepts, textual data that are not your own as footnotes on each page. Please use the small number e.g. ^{1,2,3} to identify footnotes. All references cited in the text must be listed.

Bibliography

After your conclusion, add, in alphabetical order, the sources you quote from, making use of the title, author, page, publisher and date format.

Book List recommended by the Fellowship of Evangelists and Ministers

A History of Christianity, K. S. Latourette, Prince Press

Believer's Bible Commentary, William MacDonald, Nelson

Bible Doctrine, Wayne Gruden, IVP

Boyd's Bible Handbook, Robert Boyd, Harvest House

Christian Theology, Alister McGrath, IVP
Evangelical Dictionary of Biblical Theology, Walter Elwell, Baker
History of the Reformation, J. H. Merle d'Aubigne, Baker
In Defence of the Faith, Dave Hunt, Harvest House
Institutes of the Christian Religion, John Calvin, Collins
New Bible Dictionary, IVP
New Dictionary of Theology, IVP
New Illustrated Bible Dictionary, R. F. Youngblood, Nelson
Old Testament History, Charles F. Pfeiffer, Baker
Outline of Theology, A.A. Hodge, Banner of Truth
Systematic Theology, A. H. Strong, Pickering and Inglis
Systematic Theology, Wayne Gruden, IVP
Systematic Theology, John Miley, Hendricksons
The Fundamentals for the Twenty-First Century, Couch, Kregal
The Other Side of Calvinism, Laurence M. Vance, Vance Publications
The Pilgrim Church, E. H. Broadbent, Gospel Folio Press
The Reformation, Will Durant, MJF Books
The Westminster Confession, G. I. Williamson, Presbyterian & Reformed Publishing Co
Thompson's Chain Reference Bible, Kirkbride
Today's Handbook of Bible Characters, E. M. Blaiklock, Bethany Publishing House
What Love is This?, Dave Hunt, Loyal